



US Army Corps  
of Engineers®  
Portland District

# Celilo Village

## Redevelopment Newsletter

June 2006

*A newsletter keeping you informed about upcoming meetings and providing updates as the Corps continues Celilo Village redevelopment.*

Celilo Falls long served as a trade center, sacred fishing ground and gathering place for the Northwest Indian tribes. When The Dalles Dam was constructed, the falls were flooded. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers provided a new location near the original falls, where about 50 people live in Celilo Village.

Inadequate maintenance, as well as sanitary and water systems, caused public health and safety concerns to village residents.

To resolve these problems, the tribes requested the Portland District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, to rebuild the village under the Columbia River Treaty Fishing Access Sites Project.

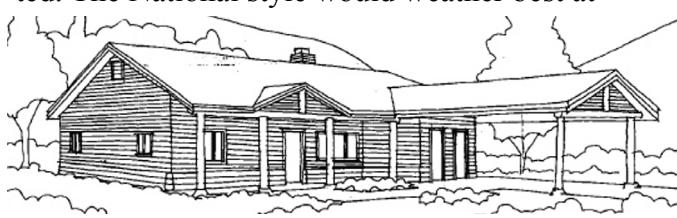
President George W. Bush authorized the reconstruction of the village in March 2004, and the Corps expects construction to be completed by 2008.



*Celilo Village*

### National housing style selected

Celilo Village residents voted on a housing style, selecting the National style from the eight submitted. The National style would weather best at



*Architect's drawing of the National housing style*

Celilo's location, is easier to maintain and fits Celilo and the Longhouse, architect Chuck Archer of Concentric Architecture explained.

Wy-Am board chairman Antone Minthorn said the Wy-Am board will ratify that decision at the next meeting. There will be future opportunities to review and provide input on the interior designs.

### Dance shed

The Ford Foundation funds capital projects for constructing community, youth and/or family resource centers. A foundation representative will attend the July Wy-Am board meeting to discuss possible funding for improvements to the dance shed. Due to a schedule conflict, a previously planned visit was moved to the July meeting.

### Cultural resources

Before any earth moving can begin, all parties involved in the redevelopment of Celilo Village must agree on how any recovered artifacts or human remains will be handled.

Cultural staff members from the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla, the Yakama Nation, the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Celilo Village residents and the Corps recently met to finalize a Memorandum of Agreement addressing the investigations. The agreement is scheduled to be signed by mid-June.

At the May 25 Wy-Am meeting, the board recommended that Tribal Historic Preservation Officers sign the MOA. “[The MOA] has been with us for some time,” Minthorn said. “We need to get on with business and get these people their houses.”



*Antone Minthorn*

Corps project manager George Miller said the mid-June date would allow testing and clearances to be completed by mid-August; delays beyond then would impact the construction schedule for the water and sewer systems.

## Operations and maintenance of redeveloped Celilo Village

When construction at Celilo Village is complete, the Corps will transfer funds for the village's operations and maintenance (O&M) to BIA. Although the funds transfer will not occur until 2009, planning is already underway.

"We need to look at how the funds are invested so they generate income and we don't touch the principal," said BIA representative Paul Young. "It's also important to immediately invest the money in order to avoid losing interest income."

Once the BIA receives the money, Young said they will send a request for proposal to



**George Miller, left, and Paul Young**  
discussed the planning and O & M funding process at the Wy-Am Board meeting

interested tribal entities who may submit proposals to conduct O&M and fund investment at Celilo Village. Members of the three treaty tribes and the Columbia River Intertribal Fish Commission may submit proposals.

This funding does not replace money the BIA or the tribes are currently spending at Celilo Village, Miller said. This money will supplement existing O&M expenditures.

BIA contract office representatives will attend the June Wy-Am board meeting to explain the proposal process and answer questions.

## Agencies express interest in Celilo

Two agencies asked to attend a Wy-Am board meeting to discuss services they might be able to offer. The Oregon Department of Health and Human Services and the Indian Health Services contacted Miller after learning about the redevelopment of and reinvestment in Celilo Village.

## Portland District Commander to attend a future Wy-Am board meeting

Col. Thomas O'Donovan had just taken command as the Portland District Commander when he attended the re-dedication of the Celilo Village longhouse in July. He has asked if he could attend a future meeting; the board agreed with pleasure.

## Next Wy-Am Board meeting

**Thursday, June 22, 2006, 10 a.m.**

**Celilo Village Longhouse, Elders Dining Hall**

- Discussion of the MOA between Dept. of the Army and Dept. of the Interior
- BIA Contracting office presentation on 638 Contracts
- Other items: to be determined

*The Wy-Am Board invites Celilo Village residents to attend meetings, participate in the process and provide comments.*

## Wyam Board Members

*Celilo Village:* Delilah Heemsah & Bobby Begay

*CTUIR:* Antone Minthorn & Leo Stuart

*CTWS:* Ron Suppah & Reuben Henry

*YIN:* Leo Aleck

## Relocation activities

Corps relocation specialist Susan Hill and Warm Springs Agency realty specialist Lyle Fox met with village residents to begin planning for relocation into temporary housing, even though relocation is still over 18 months away.

They determined how much room each family or resident will need, any special needs, developed a moving plan, answered questions and began compensation planning.

## Cemetery access

Wy-Am board members asked the Corps to review the access to the village cemetery, which is about two miles away from the village, even though the cemetery was not included in the Corps' redevelopment plans.

After a preliminary investigation, Miller said the access road is in poor condition and crosses private property at least once. The estimate to gravel the road is about \$200,000, and acquiring property or an easement may be cost prohibitive, Miller said.

Celilo Village Redevelopment Newsletter is published monthly by the Celilo Village Redevelopment Delivery Team of the Portland District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. For more information about this project, please contact George Miller at (503) 808-4704 or email [george.j.miller@usace.army.mil](mailto:george.j.miller@usace.army.mil).

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